

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:441
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
LINKING OF RIVERS
PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have started negotiations with neighbouring countries on linking of rivers;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith outcome thereof;
- (c) the countries which have opposed this move; and
- (d) the reasons for their opposition on the project ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) With a view to bringing about a consensus among the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects and modalities for project funding, etc., the Union Government has set-up a Task Force on inter-linking of rivers with following terms of reference:

- i) Provide guidance on norms of appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans;
- ii) Devise suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States;
- iii) Prioritize the different project components for preparation of Detailed Project Reports and implementation;
- iv) Propose suitable organizational structure for implementing the project;
- v) Consider various modalities for project funding; and
- vi) Consider international dimensions that may be involved in some project components.

The Union Government have not started negotiations with the neighbouring countries on inter-linking of rivers.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.